

## 5 What is claimed is:

1. In a video decoder, a method for acquiring a program conveyed on more than one broadcast channel, comprising the steps of:

- generating a program guide display listing programs being broadcast on  
10 a plurality of broadcast channels during specified broadcast time segments, wherein said program guide display lists a particular program on both a first and a second broadcast channel; and  
acquiring said particular program from said first broadcast channel in response to user selection of either of said first and second broadcast channels.

15

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein  
said particular program is acquired using packet identification and channel tuning information conveyed in one of a plurality of channel maps associating a transmission channel carrier frequency with data identifiers used to capture  
20 datastreams constituting said particular program.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein  
said plurality of channel maps are allocated a predetermined priority.

25

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein  
said user selection of either of said first and second broadcast channels is performed via selection of a displayed item in said program guide display.

5. A method according to claim 1, including the step of  
30 selecting one of said first and second broadcast channels in accordance with predetermined criteria comprising at least one of, (a) channel map priority, and (b) a User program preference profile, (c) a substitution profile downloaded from a remote head-end and (d) geographic region preference information.

5           6. A method according to claim 1, including the step of  
          acquiring said particular program from said first broadcast channel  
          using a channel map selected in accordance with a predetermined priority.

          7. A method according to claim 6, wherein  
10           said channel map associates a transmission channel carrier frequency  
          with data identifiers used to capture datastreams constituting said particular program  
          conveyed on said first broadcast channel.

          8. A method for substituting a program conveyed on a first broadcast  
15           channel for a program conveyed on a second broadcast channel, comprising the steps  
          of:

          acquiring a first channel map associating a first transmission channel  
          carrier frequency with data identifiers used to capture datastreams constituting a first  
          program conveyed on a first broadcast channel;

20           acquiring a second channel map associating a second transmission  
          channel carrier frequency with data identifiers used to capture datastreams constituting  
          an alternative program conveyed on a second broadcast channel; and

          substituting said alternative program for said first program in response  
          predetermined criteria by using said second channel map information to initiate  
25           acquisition of said second broadcast channel and said alternative program.

          9. A method according to claim 8, wherein  
          said first channel map contains information for use in acquiring  
          programs conveyed on a first set of broadcast channels, and  
30           said second channel map contains information for use in acquiring an  
          alternative program conveyed on an alternative broadcast channel corresponding to  
          one of said channels in said first set of broadcast channels.

5           10. A method according to claim 8, including the step of  
          examining said acquired second channel map for alternative program  
data being conveyed on an alternative broadcast channel in response to a channel  
change command.

10           11. A method according to claim 10, including the steps of  
          automatically substituting an alternative program and alternative  
broadcast channel identified as being available for a User selected channel by said  
acquired second channel map, and  
          tuning to receive said alternative program and alternative broadcast  
15 channel in response to a channel change command.

          12. A method according to claim 8, wherein  
          said predetermined criteria comprises at least one of, (a) channel map  
priority, and (b) a User program preference profile and (c) a substitution profile  
20 downloaded from a remote head-end.

          13. A method according to claim 8, wherein  
          said predetermined criteria comprises geographic region information.

25           14. A method according to claim 8, wherein  
          a locally broadcast alternative program is substituted for a relatively  
remotely broadcast first program.

          15. A method according to claim 8, wherein  
30           said predetermined criteria comprises a command derived from a  
remote head-end.

          16. A method according to claim 8, including the step of  
          re-tuning to acquire one of (a) said first program and (b) a second  
35 program different to said alternative and said first program following completion of  
said alternative program.

5           17. A method for substituting a program conveyed on a first broadcast channel for a program conveyed on a second broadcast channel, comprising the steps of:

          acquiring a first channel map associating a first transmission channel carrier frequency with data identifiers used to capture datastreams constituting a first  
10 program conveyed on a first broadcast channel;

          acquiring a second channel map associating a second transmission channel carrier frequency with data identifiers used to capture datastreams constituting an alternative program conveyed on a second broadcast channel; and

          automatically substituting an alternative program and alternative  
15 broadcast channel identified as being available for a User selected channel by said acquired second channel map.

          18. A method according to claim 17, wherein  
          said second channel map and said first channel map are allocated a  
20 predetermined channel map priority.

          19. A method according to claim 17, wherein  
          said second channel map is hierarchically associated with said first channel map in a database of program specific information.  
25

          20. A method according to claim 17, wherein  
          said second channel map is associated with an event via an indicator conveyed in event description information.

30           21. A method according to claim 20, wherein  
          said indicator is a normally unused indicator.

          22. A method according to claim 20, wherein  
          said indicator is conveyed in language information and said event  
35 description information is an Event Information Table (EIT).